

FISH CR
RECORD

Work Plan No. 1
Job No. 1

Reconnaissance of Sport Fishing
Pressure, Southeastern Alaska

A. Trout Fishing

During early winter with the usual bad weather, hunting seasons, and the expected lowering of enthusiasm on the part of sportsmen, little sport fishing is done. However, it is not for lack of fish, for some of our best fishing is available.

Few lakes were frozen over during this quarter and fishing was available even though few people took part. Adverse weather is a handicap, particularly where plane flights are involved.

An interesting fishery that is little used is the fall run of steelhead in the warmer streams. These fish enter the fresh water in the fall and spawn on the rising temperatures in the spring. As long as the water stays at 39° F. or above, the trout are a great sport fishery potential. Although few people fish for them, this condition will certainly not exist for very many more years, particularly when these fish weigh as much as fifteen pounds.

Limited catch figures available for this quarter are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fisher- men</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Cut- throat</u>	<u>Steel- head</u>	<u>Dolly Varden</u>
11/9	Bakewell Lake	1	20 min.	2		
11/11	Bakewell Lake	1	30 min.	2		
11/16/53	Fish Creek	1	20 min.		1	3
11/18	Fish Creek	1	30 min.		7	2
12/8	Fish Creek	2	3½ hrs.		2	
12/29	Klawak Creek	3	3 hrs.			

B. Salmon Fishing

Fishing for king and coho salmon at this time is at a low point. The fish do not run as large as they do in the spring and the weather is not as pleasant. The coho run is over and there are only a few stragglers in the area. The kings are small and only run up to about 25 pounds.

However, on a weekend with fair weather, several skiffs may be seen fishing at Clover Pass and Mountain Point, or a few hardy souls are working around the schools of herring in Tongass Narrows attempting to take a king salmon. The catch is low.

A. TROUT

Sport fishing pressures reached what will probably be the peak for the year in the Ketchikan area during the month of June. Trout fishing and salmon fishing was very good during that month and in the areas to the north. The spring temperatures during April and May were low and fishing correspondingly slow to get started generally over the entire district.

It is of interest to note that the spring thaw was very drawn out producing abnormally low spring runoffs. This low water condition plus low water temperatures was not attractive to the sea runs of trout and fishing was not as good as in former years on corresponding dates.

Checks in the field gave the following data:

DATE	LOCATION	FISHERMEN	(T - Fish taken, R - Fish Released)									
			STEELHEAD		CUTTHROAT		RAINBOW		DOLLY VARDEN			
			T	R	T	R	T	R	T	R		
4/24/64	Fish Creek	4	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0		
4/25	Fish Creek	7	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
4/29	Klavak Lk. (Outlet)	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0		
5/1	Naha River	5	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0		
5/2	Naha River	11	14	16	0	0	0	0	0	0		
5/6	Lk McDonald (Outlet)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
5/8	Naha River	2	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	0		
5/9	Naha River	9	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	6		
5/15	Fish Creek	2	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	0		
5/16	Fish Creek	5	0	6	1	0	0	0	37	0		
5/29	Lk McDonald (Outlet)	5	3	3	0	0	7	2	6	10		
5/30	(Inlet & Outlet)	12	4	4	0	0	6	0	10	0		
5/31	(Outlet)	4	4	4	1	0	3	0	4	0		
6/9	Boulder Lake	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0		
6/9	Anan Lake	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0		
6/12	Naha River	3	0	5	5	0	15	0	0	15		
6/13	Naha River	3	0	3	3	0	5	0	1	4		
6/17	Badger Lake	2	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0		

Very little fishing pressure occurred prior to May 1 on the streams and lakes. Due to the late spring, ice remained late in the low lakes and most of the high lakes (above 1000 ft.) are still ice covered.

Look Plan No. 2

General description of Rivers of Sport Fishing: Pres area

Southeastern, Alaska
Ice fishing in the State of Southeastern Alaska is not attractive to very many people. Generally, there is considerable snow through the winter while the lakes are frozen over or the streams are open in the spring for steelhead fishing. This, in addition to the early fishing for King Salmon, makes ice fishing a very negligible part of the fishing pressure of Southeastern Alaska as a whole and of the Ketchikan - Petersburg - Wrangell area in particular. The only lakes I know of that were so fished are: Little Tachich Lake on Gravina Island opposite Ketchikan received five days (rain days) of ice fishing. There were two parties there and only one of them caught creditable amounts of fish. One party fished Talbot Lake in December and did well.

Spring fishing is very popular as the streams warm up and the weather is suitable for getting out on the salt water. Many large King salmon are taken in April, May and June. The steelhead fishing is at its height at this time and the rainbow fishing is good where they occur. The sea runs of cutthroat and Dolly Varden begin in this period and they come into the streams and lakes.

The winter and spring fishing is mostly a boat transportation set-up and some flying is done to lakes and streams where shelters are available or as a single flight proposition. Most of the lakes that are fished by airplane are not safely open during the winter. The locations of this spring stream and lake fishing are:

<u>Ketchikan area</u>	<u>% of Total Pressure</u>
Naha River	20
✓Fish Creek	10
Thorne River	10
Spanious Bay Creek	5
Kohn Bay Lake	5
Ward Cove Creek	15
Ketchikan Creek	20
Kegon Creek	5
Others	10

All of the above named locations have good anchorage or moorings for boats.

<u>Petersburg Area</u>	<u>% of Total Pressure</u>
Petersburg Creek	40
Blind Slough	20
Castle River	20
Other	20

Wrangell Area

Lake Virginia and outlet have most of the sport fishing pressure in the spring.